

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01N21/77

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| X | US 5 822 472 A (DANIELZIK ET AL) 13 October 1998 (1998-10-13) abstract column 3, line 26 - line 50 column 6, line 5 - line 63 column 10, line 25 - line 48 column 11, line 6 - line 42 column 14, line 30 - line 59 figure 1 | 1-9 |
| X | US 6 312 961 B1 (VOIRIN GUY ET AL) 6 November 2001 (2001-11-06) abstract column 5, line 1 - column 6, line 8 figure 2 | 1-3,5-8 |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 March 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

30/03/2005

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| X | US 6 558 958 B1 (PILEVAR SAEED ET AL) 6 May 2003 (2003-05-06) figures 2,6,7 column 5, line 38 - column 6, line 36 column 9, line 63 - column 10, line 46 ----- | 1,4,7,9 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

/JP2004/018772

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